

## Message Text

SECRET

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71

ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-01 /005 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:JELEADER

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----- 105069

R 122230Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 221996

FOLLOWING CABLE REPEATED FYI ONLY AND NOT TO BE DISCUSSED."

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION LONDON INFO DOD, CINCPAC, CINCUSNAVEUR  
BY STATE NOVEMBER 10, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 221996

EO11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR

SUBJECT: SATELLITE TERMINAL AT DIEGO GARCIA

REFERENCE: STATE 118250 (NOTAL)

1. AS A RESULT OF URGENT COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS OF  
CINCPAC, THE US NAVY HAS LEASED AND WILL DEPLOY A SMALL  
SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS EARTH TERMINAL TO DIEGO GARCIA.  
THIS TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE VOICE  
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE THEATER COMMANDER AND THE  
COMMANDER OF TASK FORCE 77.6 (HANCOCK) NOW OPERATING IN  
THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE TERMINAL WILL ARRIVE AT DIEGO  
GARCIA BY AIRLIFT ON 10 NOVEMBER. INITIAL OPERATIONAL  
TESTING IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ABOUT 12 NOVEMBER. WE  
ARE TOLD THAT CINCUSNAVEUR HAS ALREADY ADVISED THE

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BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE FOREGOING.

2. SATELLITE TERMINAL CONSISTS OF A 10 FOOT DIAMETER DISH ANTENNA MOUNTED ON A MANUALLY POINTED MOUNT AND TRANSMITTING, RECEIVING, AND TEST EQUIPMENT HOUSED IN A FOUR FOOT CUBED SHELTER. THE EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS BEING LEASED FROM THE COMSAT CORPORATION, WILL PROVIDE A VOICE LINK FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO CINCPAC VIA INTELSAT IV SPACE-CRAFT. TWO US COMSAT CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS ARE ACCOMPANYING THE EQUIPMENT AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS INSTALLATION.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE OF FOREGOING. ALTHOUGH UK GAVE US APPROVAL THIS SUMMER FOR OUR PLANS TO UPGRADE COMMUNICATIONS AT DIEGO, WHICH INCLUDED A MILITARY SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL, BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD KEEP FCO FULLY INFORMED OF THESE PLANS AS THEY DEVELOP. FYI, DEPARTMENT IS QUITE EMBARRASSED AT BEING IN THE POSITION OF PASSING THIS INFORMATION TO YOU MERE HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF EQUIPMENT IN DIEGO. WE HAVE BEEN ENDEAVORING FOR THREE DAYS TO OBTAIN FOREGOING INFORMATION OURSELVES. SHOULD FCO APPEAR PIQUED AT BEING "KEPT FULLY INFORMED" AFTER THE FACT, YOU MAY OFFER WHATEVER APOLOGIES COMMEND THEMSELVES. END FYI. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO NOTE THAT LEASED SATELLITE TERMINAL WILL BE OF TEMPORARY NATURE, AND WILL PROBABLY BE WITHDRAWN PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT INSTALLATION. RUSH

UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

NNN

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